

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
2018 INTEGRATED REPORT
FACT SHEET
January 2020



The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is seeking written comments on the proposed 2018 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report (Integrated Report). **The deadline to submit written comments is February 27, 2020, at 5 pm.**

DEC is also holding a public informational meeting from 4 to 6 PM on February 4, 2020. You may attend in-person at the DEC Anchorage office (555 Cordova Street) and the DEC Soldotna office (43335 Kalifornsky Beach Road, Suite 11, Soldotna) or by joining on-line by calling 800-315-6338, access code: 76351. DEC's website will have a copy of the presentation.

What is the Integrated Report?

Every two years, DEC is required to report on the condition of Alaska's waters, in accordance with the federal Clean Water Act.

The Integrated Report categorizes waterbodies in Alaska to meet the reporting requirements for the Section 305(b) report and Section 303(d) list of impaired waters. The Integrated Report helps the State prioritize waters for data gathering, watershed protection, and restoration of impaired waters.

Starting in 2019, the report is being submitted electronically as a list of waters and their various categories. Additional information on individual waters in the Integrated Report is available by contacting DEC.

What are the categories?

There are five categories to which a waterbody can be assigned:

Category 1 and 2	Waters for which there is enough information to determine that water quality standards are attained for all or some of their designated uses.
Category 3	Waters for which there is not enough information to determine their status.
Category 4	Waters that are impaired, but have a variety of waterbody recovery plans.
Category 5	Waters that are impaired and do not yet have waterbody recovery plans. Also known as 303(d) list impaired waters.

Impairment means that a waterbody persistently exceeds state water quality standards (18 AAC 70) usually determined after two or more years of water quality monitoring. DEC makes impairment decisions using publically available listing methodologies. EPA has approval authority over waters moving into and out of Category 5, also known as the impaired waters list. Waters in Category 4 are also impaired but have an EPA-approved waterbody recovery plan.

Submit written comments by 5:00 PM February 27, 2020, to:

Amber Bethe
555 Cordova St.
Anchorage, AK 99501
amber.bethe@alaska.gov
Phone: 907-269-7955
Fax: 907-334-2415

DEC website:

<https://dec.alaska.gov/water/water-quality/integrated-report/>

What changes are being proposed in the 2018 Integrated Report?

Category 2

Thirty six (36) waters are now attaining standards in Category 2 for some criteria:

Waterbody(ies)	Parameter(s)	Previous Category (2014/2016 IR)	Proposed Category (2018 IR)
Beaches: Ann Coleman Road Beach (Juneau), Auke Recreation Area Beach (Juneau), City Park (Wrangell), Lena Cove Beach (Juneau), Lutak Cove (Haines), Petroglyph Beach (Wrangell), Portage Cove (Haines), and Sandy Beach (Petersburg)	Fecal Coliform Bacteria	NA/3	2
Crooked Creek watershed near Central: Bonanza, Mammoth, Mastodon and Porcupine Creeks	Turbidity	5	2
Crooked Creek watershed near Central: Bedrock, Independence	Turbidity	NA	2
Crooked Creek watershed near Central: Bedrock, Bonanza, Boulder, Crooked, Deadwood, Ketchem, Mammoth and Porcupine Creeks	Dissolved oxygen and pH	NA	2
Eagle River, Anchorage	Ammonia, copper, lead and silver	4a	2
Greens Creek, Site 61 near Hawk Inlet	Cadmium and zinc	3	2
Indian River, near Sitka	Dissolved oxygen and pH	3	2

Kenai River	Copper	NA	2
Lower Kenai River	Dissolved oxygen and pH	NA	2
Salmon River, near Gustavus, Glacier Bay	Dissolved oxygen and pH	NA	2
National Parks waterbodies: Caribou Creek, Chalk Creek, E.F. Toklat River, Gilahina River, Igloo Creek, Jack Creek, Moose Creek, Rock Creek (Denali), Rock Creek (Wrangell St. Elias), Rufus Creek and Sanctuary River	Alkalinity, dissolved oxygen, nitrate-nitrite, and pH	NA	2
Taiya River, near Skagway	Dissolved oxygen and pH	NA	2
Willow Creek, near Houston	Alkalinity, antimony, arsenic, barium, beryllium, cadmium, cobalt, copper, dissolved oxygen, fecal coliform bacteria, iron, lead, manganese, molybdenum, nickel, pH, silver, thallium, turbidity, vanadium and zinc	3	2

Category 3

One hundred fifty four (154) waters are added to Category 3. The list of waters added to Category 3 in 2018 can be found here: <http://dec.alaska.gov/water/water-quality/integrated-report>

Kenai River coastal beaches are placed in this Category as a result of suspected natural sources of bacteria. Microbial source testing indicates that the predominant source of bacteria is gulls, there are two nearby gull rookeries. DEC regulation (18 AAC 70.010) indicate that water quality standards in a waterbody may only be exceeded as a result of human actions, therefore DEC will not list a waterbody as impaired for natural conditions. DEC will continue to notify the public when bacteria levels exceed standards and issue advisories on precautions that should be taken.

Category 4a

Four waters are now in Category 4a under a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL):

Waterbody(ies)	Parameter(s)	Previous Category (2014/2016 IR)	Proposed Category (2018 IR)
Crooked, Ketchum, Deadwood, Boulder Creeks (Crooked Creek watershed near Central, AK)	Turbidity	5	4a

Category 4b

One water is being proposed to include in Category 4b under an alternative water quality improvement plan.

Waterbody(ies)	Parameter(s)	Previous Category (2014/2016 IR)	Proposed Category (2018 IR)
Popof Strait	Residues – seafood waste discharge	5	4b

Category 5

No new waters are placed in Category 5/Section 303(d) impaired list:

Where can I find more information online on the health of Alaska's water?

- ADEC Integrated Report web page; Integrated Reports from previous years can be found here <http://dec.alaska.gov/water/water-quality/integrated-report>
- Summary data on Alaska's waters in Integrated Reports from previous years can be found on EPA's ATTAINS here https://ofmpub.epa.gov/waters10/attains_state.control?p_state=AK